

ARENA REPORT

1990

ANNUAL
ISSUE

INRODUCTION

Welcome everyone to the Arena Report 1990 Annual. This is the first annual I've done in the three years of publishing "AR". It was alot of fun putting this together. Thanks to all the writers I asked to contribute to this project as they came through with flying colors on the deadline. It gave me less headaches. I'm going to blend each segment so there will be good variety throughout. Here is what you'll find on the annual menu: My picks for the wrestling awards of 1990.....Dave Meltzer from The Wrestling Observer rates the top ten wrestlers of the year.....Steve Beverly of Matwatch gives us his top ten TV bouts of the year.....John Lanigan, famous for his food reports, rates the top ten food items from arenas across the country..... Newsletter correspondent Dan Reillyhas a hard hitting piece entitled, "Why The Smarts Hate The WWF.".....Pro Wrestling Sushi's Jeff Mullins tracked down his cousin Jersey Joe after I couldn't locate him anywhere so he could spin a tale for us with a "Cosmic Christmas".....GAG editor Jeff Zinger gives us his 1990 GAG Fan Awards.....Mike Lano has a couple of David Letterman type top tens in this annual. Mike recently had a feature article on Jesse Ventura in The National. And of course, we have the fine regular staff of "AR" all present and accounted for.....Scott Hudson presents his "Sheet of Lists" in his journal.....Evan Ginzburg and Mike Terry shoot from the hip in teir respective columns.....Marianne Ryan reviews her year in the parking lot..... Klon pulls out his Xmas wish list for the wrestlers from under his mushroom..... We have a live WWF report from Orlando Arena which took place on 12/10 and a live report from the "Superstars of Wrestling" TV taping which was held in Tampa on 12/11.....We'll have an edition of "Ramblings" as well as "Corresponder Corner" and letters to the ed....We'll rap up with a brief look at STARCADE '90. Enjoy and thanks for reading.

EDITORIAL

Some of you may have noticed last issue that Rodney Leighton's column was replaced by Klon's. Before things get out hand, I'd like to explain. It was basically an editorial decision which I am entitled to make. I just didn't feel Rodney's material jelled with the rest of the material that appears in Arena Report. I had asked Klon if he'd be interested in becoming part of the "AR" family when I had decided to drop Rodney. After a few correspondence between the two of us, there are no hard feelings. As a matter of fact, you will see letters from time to time from Mr. Leighton. Call it bad timing but the column I received from Mike Terry came Friday. He had no idea that Rodney would no longer be writing for "AR". I'm mentioning this because I don't want to get involved in any bulletin wars. I've stayed out of them long enough and I'd like to continue on my merry way. Thank you.

Ron Lemieux's 1990 Wrestling Awards

My picks are based solely on the U.S. wrestling scene since some of you may not have access to Japanese or Mexican tapes. Any comments on my choices are welcome.

Wrestler of the Year: BOBBY EATON The only bad match I saw Bobby in all year was against Sid Vicious. Who has had a good one? Great to watch in action. Ric Flair comes in second.

Best Babyface: HULK HOGAN What can I say. I'll go with Lex Luger #2. Over huge at all the live shows I've seen him at. He's got the look.

Best Heel: EDDIE GILBERT Didn't draw a lick but did some of the most heinous things this year including running over Lawler with the car. Second place goes to Earthquake. The Hogan skit was done perfectly.

Feud of the Year: FLAIR VS. STING A year long feud that will culminate Xmas night in Atlanta. None of the bouts I saw were less than *** $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tag Team of the Year: STEINER BROTHERS An explosive team to watch. Can pop me out of my seat in an instant with one of their blockbuster moves. Midnights get second due to Bobby almost being a one man show.

Most Improved: NASTY BOYS If you saw their work in the PWF, you'd have voted for them too. Were able to use the style in the NWA they do best, uncontrollable brawling. Second goes to The Southern Boys. Already decent but got even better.

Most Unimproved: STAN LANE This one will probably surprise alot of you but Stan just didn't do it for me this year. His kicks look like the shits and his bumps aren't so great. Seemed very average this year.

Best On Interviews: ARN ANDERSON The guy who makes me sit up and take notice during an interview. Great tough guy persona. Second goes to the "Nature Boy". (No Jeff, not Landell.)

Most Charismatic: ULTIMATE WARRIOR The guy does nothing else when he gets to the ring so what's all the noise about? Can't figure out why he's over because he can't wrestle, talk, or breath right but he's got it.

Most Overrated Wrestler: SID VICIOUS The guy is the worst. I can't believe any group would make him their champion so the NWA probably will someday. Second goes to Jim Neidhart. Make Eaton and Bret a team and look out.

Most Underrated Wrestler: TONY ANTHONY The Dirty White Boy always works hard and has good bouts with some pretty green guys. Could make it as a tough guy with one of the majors.

Best Promotion: NWA By default. I enjoy their wrestling more than Vince but they've gone downhill continuously the last few years.

Best Television Show: USWA CHALLENGE Always two or three "main event" type bouts. Not the same old squash after squash routine. Second- WCW

Match of the Year: MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS. SOUTHERN BOYS From the 1990 Bash in Baltimore. Can't remember anything that kept my interest as much as this did. Everything clicked on all cylinders.

Rookie of the Year: STEVE AUSTIN Started off really bad but is now respectable. Can't think of anyone for second.

Manager of the Year: JIM CORNETTE Corny had an off year due to the turmoil in the NWA but he was still a notch above Bobby Heenan in my book. When will "The Brain" get the credit he deserves.

Best Television Announcer: JIM ROSS Jimbo gets it again this year but given more exposure, my #2 choice could give him a run for his money in next year's poll and that's Craig Johnson.

Worst Television Announcer: COACH JOHN HEATH If anyone has seen the PWF TV show, I don't need to explain. This guy makes Bill Mercer look like Dick Enberg.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

1990 SHEET OF LISTS

!SPECIAL!

YEAR-END

GONZO

ISSUE

!SPECIAL!

TOP TEN LEAST USED ENTRANCE MUSIC

10. MICHAEL HAYES
"So You Wanna Be A Rock n Roll Star ?" - Tom Petty
9. VERNE GAGNE, GREG GAGNE, & LARRY ZBYSKO
"I Think We're Alone Now" - Tommy James & The Shondells
8. JOSE GONZALES
"Anotherone Bites The Dust" - Queen
7. BRAD ARMSTRONG & BOBBY EATON
"(All I'm Asking Is For A Little) Respect" - Aretha Franklin
6. ART BARR, MATT BORNE, & BILLY JOE TRAVIS
"Thank Heaven For Little Girls" - Maurice Chevalier
5. AKIRA MAEDA
"Tough Enough" - The Fabulous Thunderbirds
4. JACK VICTORY
"I Got A Name" - Jim Croce
3. BARRY WINDHAM
"Ain't Got No Home" - Clarence Frogman Henry
2. HULK HOGAN & VINCE MCMAHON, JR.
"What A Difference You've Made In My Life" - Ronnie Milsap
1. PAUL ORNDORFF & LEX LUGER
"One Of My Turns" - Pink Floyd

WAS THE WORLD REALLY SCREAMING FOR...

- the return of Moondog Rex?
- The Minneasota Wrecking Crew II?
- General Adnan?
- a Jake Milliman push?
- The Mysterious Pearl?

TOP TEN HOTTEST BABES IN PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 10. Kim "Dirty White Girl" Anthony | 5. Boni Blackstone |
| 9. Nickla "Baby Doll" Roberts | 4. Miss Elizabeth |
| 8. Sensational Sherri Martel | 3. Nancy "Woman" Sullivan |
| 7. Madusa Micelli | 2. Terry "Tailor-Made Medina" Power |
| 6. Tina Moretti | 1. Tessa (Oh, like you thought I would list Ann Casey!) |

TOP TEN GIMMICKS THAT YOU'LL NEVER SEE

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 10. The Fort Duquene Boulevard Warrior | 5. The Cosmetology School Dropout |
| 9. Marvin The Accountant | 4. The H.I.V. Positives |
| 8. Baron Von Johnson | 3. Mr. Dothan |
| 7. Peter "The Proctologist" Evans | 2. Nad The Castrator |
| 6. Dr. Navel | 1. The Mineasota Wrecking Crew III |

"DID HE REALLY SAY THAT" DEPARTMENT

"Ladies and Gentlemen, God's gift to professional wrestling, the Nature Boy, Ric Flair!"

-Paul E. Dangerously

"It looks like Superfly Jimmy Snuka has been taking his Hulk Hogan vitamins."

-Vince McMahon, Jr.

TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND A LIVE WWF SHOW

10. Five free minutes on the 1-900-BMAN-MOM phone sex line.
9. Concession stand featuring that delicious "Brooklyn Brawler" flavored ice cream.
8. Those cute, foam-rubber "Texas Tornado" fake feet.
7. Hey, how often do you get to see a living legend like Outback Jack work with The Warlord?
6. Dustymania!
5. Chance to play "Pin The Hypodermic Tail On The Ultimate Donkey" game at festive pre-card party.
4. Special "2 for 1" deal on Miss Elizabeth blow-up love dolls.
3. Possibility you will actually hear Andre' The Giant scream, "I've fallen..and I can't get up!"
2. The Flying Wallendas (Oh, that's the other circus!)
1. The Gobbledy Gooker.....'nuff said!

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF.....

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Bill Watts booked the NWA? | - 6 year old Davey Meltzer had become a huge skiing fan? |
| - Magnum TA had better luck behind the wheel? | - Jim Crockett still owned the NWA? |
| - Hulk Hogan Irrevocably retired for real? | - Bruiser Brody had missed his flight to San Juan? |
| - Vince McMahon, Sr. were still living? | - Anderson, Watts, and Briscoe had held on to their GCW stock? |

THE LAST WORD...

Don't Miss

" A FAN'S PERSPECTIVE"
Saturday Nights at 9:30pm on

WVEU^{TV}69

2700 Northeast Expressway
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Before you close the book on Ole Anderson, don't be too quick to condemn him. That is, unless you know something I don't. Specifically--exactly how much of the final product was mandated by Jim Herd. Somehow I doubt Ole will do an interview in the "Torch" to tell his story. As I write this a few weeks before you'll read it, Dusty Rhodes appears to be the designated booker. He may be the best choice available, but I seem to remember a cliché about those who ignore history being doomed to repeat it. Favoritism, pushing friends, screw-job endings, emasculating the champion--they should keep the sheets thriving.

Maybe there's a little Matt Brock in me, but I've been around long enough to see many wrestling promotions start up over the years. The bosses are always brimming with enthusiasm...full of superlatives about how phenomenal their promotion will be...how they've found the elusive formula for success. We're hearing it again from Herb Abrams and Joe Pedocino. From what I've heard so far, I wouldn't trust Herb as far as I could throw Joe. As for Joe, is his Georgia promotion indicative of his capabilities? I know he SAYS all the right things, and he seems like an awfully nice fellow, but his track record is strictly minor league. For the sake of the sport, I hope they both make me eat those words.

I'm sure you've all noticed the WWF TV crew wearing those slick blue jumpsuits and the ring attendants in coat & tie. The WCW official crew uniform? T-shirts and shorts.....I'm finding Tony Gilliam a bit annoying. Hearing his ring intros, I wonder if he's an announcer or a singer?

I'm leaving myself wide open with this one, but am I the only one who can't figure out what the hell the attraction is with ubiquitous columnist Rodney Leighton? I'm sure no Hemmingway, but this guy's ego-gratification that passes for a column is like an Ultimate Warrior interview--all smoke and no fire--all sizzle and no steak.

I guess you can tell it's November sweeps time when Prime Time Wrestling brings us a classic matchup like Iron Mike Sharpe vs. S.D. Jones.....You know who I was hoping would be Ted DiBiase's mystery partner at Survivor Series? Roddy Piper. Would that have been classic or what?.....Great to see the marketing geniuses at WCW air Halloween Havoc t-shirt commercials 8 weeks AFTER the show. Like I'm going to pay \$19 for a souvenir of that show. Where are the Starrcade t-shirt commercials?

Quote of the month #1 from Bob Caudle: "The talent shows with Scaggs and Knobbs." Quote #2 from Frank Dusek talking about the Botswana Beast: "Last time I saw a face like that it took the bait off the hook.".....#3 from Gorilla Monsoon talking about a contract signing: "...wait until they put their John Henry on it."

Whoever becomes the new WCW booker should do himself a favor and make Terry Taylor a member of the Horsemen.....Best-dressed wrestler: Randy Savage.....I call it stupid when the NWA misspells "O'Connor," but what do you call it when the USWA misspells Jarrett? It came across "Jarrette" on a recent Challenge show.

And the gripes just keep on coming.....on the Friday Night Video show before the Oktoberfest SNME, Gene Okerlund hosted with Honky Tonk Man, Greg Valentine, and Jimmy Hart. Between videos they showed a clip from the next night's "festivities." What do you think they chose to show? Hot wrestling action? Uh, guess again. Try Lanny Poffo's sausage stuffing, and the Bushwackers bit about cutting the cheese. Now that's humor, right? Right???

Who does Buck Zumhofe's hair? Lisa Bonet?.....I did enjoy the USWA championship tournament, but Jerry Lawler's Hoganesque pushing of himself as Mr. Invincible was a bit much.

While the Ultimate Warrior is the obvious focus of the brilliant new WWF Superstars open, the new All-American open features--guess who? If you said Hulk Hogan, give yourself a Christmas cookie.

I called the WCW Hotline's Jim Ross Report one Saturday night, basically to get some material to use to slam the thing. My impression was they very slyly made sure you had to stick through at least a minute to get what you called for, and spent as much time convincing you to call back next hour for more as they did giving you what passed for legitimate news. But honestly, I was surprised. Ross could have been much more succinct with his comments, but there was legitimate news there.

Finally, the crowd at Survivor series wasn't booing when the Gobbledeegooker hatched, they were shouting, "GobbledeeGOOOOOOOOOOOOker."

Have a wonderful holiday, and here's hoping 1991 will bring record houses and unprecedented workrates. Until next month it's my 2-cents.

TOP TEN WRESTLERS IN THE WORLD

By Dave Meltzer

Trying to pick a top ten list in the world right now is no easy task. You are having to pick among those with different strengths, weaknesses and styles. For example, how can one pick who is better between Jumbo Tsuruta and Curt Hennig? Obviously, Hennig is the more talented wrestler of the two. In fact, Tsuruta in many ways isn't even all that impressive. Yet, Tsuruta has had almost nothing but top-notch matches all year. How many great matches has Hennig had? A few, to be sure, but not on a nightly basis. At the same time, compare the opposition of the two. Hennig has worked with few good workers. Tsuruta has been in the ring mainly with top-notch workers. Now throw in a guy like Negro Casas, who wrestles a totally different style, or Jushin Riger, who is less than 200 pounds. How can you compare them with a Ric Flair? Still, I've tried to be fair in this list in evaluating the wrestlers who have the most talent, put out the most, and most importantly, have the best matches.

1. JUSHIN RIGER - This pick was easy. The guy is just amazing and he shows his stuff every time you see him. He's got the dazzling moves, but he's also solid in every maneuver he does. In my opinion, Riger is the best junior heavyweight of the past ten years, and that includes Satoru Sayama. Sayama did things in the ring that Riger, or nobody else, could do. But Riger is more solid in his moves, doesn't miss spots (as compared with Sayama who often missed spots) and has the ability to have great matches with anyone decent (where Sayama's classic matches were limited to guys with the ability level of a Dynamite Kid). However, Riger doesn't carry a poor opponent as well as Ric Flair.

2. BOBBY EATON - My opinion is that Eaton is the most consistently excellent wrestler in the United States. His ability is comparable to Curt Hennig. His ring psychology isn't far behind Ric Flair's, and his consistency is right up there with anyone in the business. When was the last time you saw him in a bad match on a major show?

3. RIC FLAIR - Although his routine can be predictable, it's also predictable that he'll always have a good match. Flair's biggest problem is that at age 41, it's become hard to live up to expectations of him. If Bobby Eaton has a 3 1/2 star match, you go away really happy that you saw a great match. If Ric Flair has a 3 1/2 star match, you're almost disappointed. I recall at the Bash in Baltimore, Flair did a tremendous job in carrying Sting to a darn good match. And we were still disappointed to a degree, because it wasn't match of the year, or even match of the night. But if any other wrestler in the world had put on a match that good and carried someone with limited talent, we'd have sung his praises up and down. The best there is today at putting a dramatic aura into a match. And, he almost never has an off night.

4. JUMBO TSURUTA - When you watch him wrestle, your impression is he's just another good wrestler. There are no outstanding moves. There are no outstanding bumps. He doesn't look special visually. Yet, week-in and week-out, his matches are great. Certainly he has an advantage over everyone on this list. His opponents are usually great, and probably even more important, they are hungry. In the ring with guys like Kenta Kobashi, Toshiaki Kawada and Tsuyoshi Kikuchi makes it easy to have a good match. However, Tsuruta has a lot of subtleties in these matches that make them so exciting. While the other guy is doing the moves, and even the good bumps, Tsuruta is in control of the pacing of the match and sells perfectly for whatever the situation is.

5. CURT HENNIG - The most talented wrestler in the United States. The best bump taker in pro wrestling. That's his strengths. And he does have the ability to take a bad wrestler and carry them to a decent match, and sometimes a good match. Then how come almost every time I've seen him in a house show match, it hasn't been very good? Still, he is one of the best. There are days where I think he's the best in the business, and then watching him the next day, I think he's the most overrated by smart fans around. I guess, on a daily basis, the real Curt Hennig is somewhere between those two points.

6

6. NEGRO CASAS - The best wrestler in Mexico, hands down. Casas is tremendously versatile. Has great moves. Has the ability to make a good match more than anyone in Mexico. But he also has his faults. For one, while his offense is awesome and his selling is right up there with the best, his ring psychology isn't that great. I was a lot more in awe of Casas than most wrestlers I've seen, but even against a great worker like Yoshihiro Asai; who is his best opponent, the resulting great match didn't compare to many matches I've seen Ric Flair have with wrestlers who are nowhere near Asai's level.

7. SHAWN MICHAELS - Because he's mainly a tag team wrestler, I don't think he gets the credit he deserves as a worker. If you ever saw the Rockers work against two bums like the Powers of Pain earlier this year, you know that this guy is as good as any wrestler in the United States. He's a great athlete, does not looking offensive moves and sells as good as any babyface. In fact, I can't come up with a fault with him except that he does have his off nights.

8. TOSHIAKI KAWADA - While everyone raves about Mitsuharu Misawa, his tag team partner is the one who carries the load most of the way. One of the hardest workers in the business and plenty talented as well. Lone problem is the credibility problem. Fans "know" he's the one who is going to do the job whenever he's in a really big match. It was that way when he teamed with Tenryu, and now when he teams with Misawa. Just once they should give him an upset win over Tsuruta and it would help him immensely.

9. YOSHIHIRO ASAI - This guy is so much fun to watch. His workrate and enthusiasm matches up to his talent. Considering his relative lack of experience, he's only 23 and has been wrestling a little more than three years, being rated this high is amazing. His lone drawback is a lack of experience which does show in the ring. His other drawback is that his style is very dangerous. When he gets that experience, it may be after suffering more knee and ankle problems. When his ring knowledge is there, the body may be past its peak.

10. GENICHIRO TENRYU - Just a solid worker who works so stiff that he drags you into caring about his match just about every time. He missed about six months, so it's hard to rate him in the top 10. But he was either No. 1 or No. 2 at the time he left All Japan, and the few SWS bouts he's been in have been good matches.

THE 12 DAYS OF STARCADE

by Mike Lano

The 12 cliches of Ric Flair (Sung To the "Twelve Days of Christmas" and song simplified to the main choruses-You know what to do.

-In awed tribute to the greatest mouth ever attached to a wrestler and not meant in a mean vein at all.) Here goes:

On the twelve days of Starcade, my hero said out loud:

12. Oh Gods, and wooooo's
11. Linosine ridin's
10. Walk that aisle's
9. What's causing all this
8. Best thing going today.
7. Whether you like it's
6. Learn to love it's
5. Space mountains
4. Big man and pals
3. Born with silver spoons
2. Doctor's sons

And to be the man, you've got to beat the man'.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Monday, December 10, 1990

Orlando Arena

Orlando, FL

Opening Match

Shawn Michaels beat Smash of Demolition at 13:03. Was supposed to be a tag with Demos vs. Rockers but it was announced that both Crush and Jannetty were injured. Crush is actually the only one hurt. Why does every Vince opener have to have comedy no matter who it involves. Should have been alot better. Smash charged the corner where Michaels scored with the sunset flip. **

2nd Match

Tugboat pinned Dino Bravo in 9:18. Jimmy Hart did about 5 minutes of mic work to get Tugger over. Hogan's best friend, etc. I hate saying this but I smell a Tugboat turn at the Rumble. Can you say Hogan vs. Tugboat at Wrestlemania? First lock up at 5:22. (Wish they would lock these two up.) Bravo was soaking in the cheers (?) of the crowd near the ropes when Toot clotheslined him in the back and gave him a big splash. -***

3rd Match

Warlord used a hotshot to beat Jimmy Snuka at 13:25. Two more candidates for Sing-Sing as the first lock up here was at 4:31. Some fans were chanting for Warlord and Snuka was playing heel with them. If your going to keep this basket case, you should turn him heel. ‡*

Main Event

Earthquake defeated Hulk Hogan via count out at 7:42. Phenomenal heat for Hogan. What a pop. Hogan kicked out of the Quake and made his superman comeback. As Hulk was trying to climb back in after some out the ring brawling, Jimmy Hart hit him with the megaphone and he was counted out. So Hogan loses. So why do they play his theme music when he gets beat? **

5th Match

Greg Valentine rolled up Dustin Rhodes after a missed charge in the corner at 13:21. Any doubt that the Rhodes' are history? Valentine back to blond hair again. Must have turned in his guitar. Dustin at one point broke into a good imitation of his daddy's hand jive and elbow but then threw a horrendous dropkick. I knew Dustin was doing the job when Greg threw him off an attempted bulldog. ‡*

6th Match

Big Boss Man squashed Bobby Heenan in 14 seconds. Heenan came down first and apologized to BBM and Mrs. BBM. He said she would receive 5 dozen roses the next morning. Boss Man comes in and grabs Bobby but the ref gets between them and "The Brain" hits Bubba with the mic. He goes to throw Boss Man into the ropes but it gets reversed, Bubba punches him in the stomach, and pins him. As he tries to cuff him, Barbarian hits the ring and they go at it for a couple of minutes until Boss Man clears the ring.*

7th Match

Rick Martel beat Jake Roberts via DQ in 7:24. Best match of the night. Jake went to hit Martel with a short arm clothesline but leveled the ref. While the ref was out, Martel took a packet out and poured it in Jake's eyes. When the ref came to, he got too close to Jake and Roberts DDT'd him for the DQ. Martel continued on Jake but Earl Hebner came out and threatened him with a \$10,000 fine. They played monopoly that night. ***

WWF Tag Team Championship

Hart Foundation retained the belts beating Power & Glory in 13:26. Good double teaming by Proctor & Gamble. Roma accidentally hit Herc with a clothesline which turned things around. Good spot. Bret had Roma rolled up, Herc switched it but Neidhart reversed it back for the win. **

Notes

Crowd was 6,700 and I'd have to say Orlando has to be one of Vince's top 15 towns attendance wise.....Gobbledy Gooker made an appearance tonight. Warm reception when introed but boos when he left. Totally senseless. What is this thing supposed to do.....They had a new ref who looked like he came from the "Tommy Young School of Refereeing" if you get my drift.....Bloopers sign of the night: "Jack and Damien Rule!".....Agent Earl Hebner was giving Jap photog Bill Otten shit at ringside asking for his credentials. Hebner wasn't aware Bill shoots all the time. Hebner was only in town for the tapings in Florida anyway.....Gooker tried to get ring announcer Mel Phillips to do what Mean Gene did at SUMMER SLAM but no go.

*** COSMIC CHRISTMAS ***

Jersey Joe Mullins, Jersey City, NJ

"T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even..."

"...No queechures wur stwirling, daddie Wince?!"

"No, Vinnie, Jr. No creatures were stirring...not even a..."

"But daddie Wince, why were no queechures stwirling?!"

"Because I jobbed them all out, son. All of them!"

"Unca Koko's bird?"

"Yup! Gone! Turkey meat for tomorrow's Christmas dinner!"

"Unca Jake's snake?"

"Yup! A gift purse for Aunt Scary!"

"Bad News Brown's possum?"

"Gone! A fur joke jock strap for Uncle Pat Patterson!"

"And...and...Unca George Steele?"

"Gone, son. All gone. Like yesterday's news."

"But...but...(sigh) I wyked all the queechers, daddie Wince. (Yawn) I, uh, ummm (blink)...I will miss the queee-chuurrrs (nod). Z-z-z-z-z-zzzzz."

"Hey, honey! Come here and put Vinnie, Jr. to bed. He's fallen asleep."

"Oh-h-h, Vince. Just look at our darling little snuggle-bug all curled up and sound asleep. He's got your ears, Vince."

"And your nose, honey."

"And your head, Vince."

"And your complexion, dear."

"And your mouth, darling."

"Yeah, like father like son. I wonder what the little Vincester is dreaming about? Oh, well, let's tuck him in and hit the sack, hon. Tomorrow's Christmas day and we're doing triples everywhere..."

...I wonder what the little Vincester is dreaming about...dreaming about...dreaming...

"...and now ladies and gentlemen, this is your WrestleMania Seven main event! In this corner wearing Terry Taylor's red comb, Koko B. Ware's parrot feathers, python-skin tights, and furry possum boots, it is the winner of the 1991 ROYAL RUMBLE, the last man in the ring, the man who defeated Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan, none other than 'Vicious' Wince McMahon! And, entering the ring area at this time, being carried in a giant nest, with Mean Gean Yokerlund sitting on top of it and trying his best to hatch it before the match begins, is his opponent...Giant Egg #2. Wait...hold it...the egg is cracking open; the bell is ringing. Oh, my! Oh, no! Oh, God! It's..."

"Dan Rather here, ringside at the Los Angeles Colosseum, site of WrestleMania Seven where history of a strange and wonderous nature has been made just hours ago when World Wrestling Federation promoter-wrestler Vicious Wince McMahon was--in view of a huge crowd--eaten alive by his opponent who licked its lips and with a giant leap, flew off into the Southern California smog!" Who or What was it that broke out of Egg #2? Steve Beverly of Flashback says it was Howdy Doody's long lost friend "Flub-a-dub". Computer Bulletin editor Dick Freeman swears it was "Mothra". Wrestling Observer's Dave Meltzer says it was the legendary "One-Eyed One-Horned Flying Purple People Eater" on 'roids (he gave the match *****'s for the flying moves by Purp). And, ironically, in the same week's issues of Torch, Choke, and Sushi, Wade, Lance, and Jeff all said basically the same things... 'It was just what it looked like: a ten-story tall Parrot-Plummed, Snake-Bellied, Chicken-Lipped, Flying Harlem Sewer Rat that snatched McMahon up, gulped him down, burped out a wet curly hair-ball, and then sailed off into the hazy L.A. sunset'..."

"Oh-h-h, Vince, honey. Look at how little Vinnie, Jr. is kicking his legs and waving his arms like he is flying in his sleep."

"Yeah, and look at him licking drool off his lips and smiling."

"He licks his lips just like you, Vince."

"Yeah, I wonder what he was dreaming about?"

"Probably just dreaming about sugar plum faries dancing in his head."

"Yeah, that's my boy."

Z-z-z-zzzz. Drool. Smack. Slurp. Yummmmm. Urp.

A PIECE OF MY MIND BY EVAN GINZBURG

Hi, gang. Before I go anywhere with this, let me wish everyone a Happy and healthy (hey, I sound like my mom!) New Year! Hope all you arena reporteers get everything you wish for in '91.

Well, since it's a tradition in kay fabedom at the end of the year to comment on what's passed, guess I'll fall into that trap. I'll be brief though.

I can only summarize the WWF in one word; **worthless**. I really, truly mean that. I put them one small notch above Glow. Even in the rare occasions you get one or two strong matches on a show, you are **TOO NUMB BY THAT POINT TO CARE**. Need I go any further?

The NWA also disappointed me in '90. To go from Flair-Funk & Flair-Steamboat to Sting-Bill Irwin & Sting-Sid Vicious can only be categorized as a big, big step down in term of championship caliber matches. Sure they have some bright, bright moments & I always try to be optimistic where they are concerned, but it's just not the same quality as you were getting even a few years back. I love the NWA and will continue to support them, but just can't muster up the same enthusiasm.

The bright lights in '90 were the indies. With guys like Eddie Gilbert, Abdullah, Terry Funk, Jerry Lawler and others tearing up Memphis, Philly etc., who needs the glitz and glamor of the majors? I want action & these people deliver it.

I realize I'm not breaking any new ground with this piece, and maybe that reflects my growing boredom with the nineties wrestling scene. I think that one of the main things that **keeps** my interest are the superior bulletins out there. At least I know I'm not alone when I'm angered at Flair's diminishing role, or repulsed at JYD's mutating belly...

By the way, what makes a fan sit in their house 6 months in advance worrying about what the Wrestlemania main-event is? I hear people talking about this all the time & say to myself, "Boy, they must have **too much** time on their hands!"

I really can't think of a clever way to sneak in my traditional plug for my sheet so I'll just go ahead & do it! The January issue of Wrestling Then & Now features a fascinating interview with the widow of Gorgeous George! Talk about the roots of wrestling! Some real inside stuff here, and one that you don't want to miss! Only \$1.25 or \$12 year. Make checks out to Evan Ginzburg- PO Box 471/Oakland Gardens Station/Flushing, NY 11364. I realize many of you subscribe to several sheets and are not anxious to spend money on a new one, but I **PROMISE** you WT&N is different!

Congratulations again to the Fabulous Lemieuxs and their baby Crusher, uh, Christopher...

Hey, if Billy Graham claims that 90% of the wrestlers are on steroids, and some guy in Tramel's sheet states that an incredibly high percentage are also on cocaine & other drugs, it doesn't seem to leave too many in the "clean cut/health conscious young athlete" category. I hope and pray that these statistics are wrong or just exaggerated, because no matter how involved I get in wrestling fandom, many of the wrestlers always have remained **heroes** to me. **Life** can be disillusioning enough, does wrestling, which is a fantasy, have to be too?

Hey, maybe if WWF attendance continues to shrink, we'll see a 1984 caliber Piper, mucho juice in matches, and all the boys forced to give 110% in every match. Nah, that's just a fantasy too...

Thanks to Dore DeQuattro for his nice comments on the last "Piece Of My Mind."

That about does it y'all. And always remember, the only way to spell wrestling is T-O-L-O-S! (If some of you don't get that, you're a lot younger than I am!).

When the history book is written on pro wrestling of this era, the year 1990 will go down as the one in which television began to eclipse arena shows like Pacman. Whereas no barnburner, such as the Ric Flair/Barry Windham vs. Eddie Gilbert/Ricky Steamboat tag match, genuinely launched a new feud, a few electric spots could still be found.

For the purpose of this Arena Report yearender, we deal strictly with matches on weekly series and specials (such as "Clash of the Champions" or "Saturday Night's Main Event"). Pay-per-view events are where the cut above events are normally expected, so we review our choices for the ten best matches on the bread-and-butter shows:

1. Ric Flair vs. Brian Pillman, WCW (February): This was classic Flair and reminded me of the match which made Sting a major singles star in 1988. Pillman was on the verge of an upset all match and the 17 minutes told the story which should have elevated Pillman's status until WCW politics set in shortly thereafter.

2. Flair vs. Butch Reed, Clash XIII: I'm not sure if this match was this good because it was the superior product on a disastrous special or if it was genuinely high on the yardstick of quality. But Flair, in the midst of a lackluster second half of 1990, was up for this contest and Reed looked better than he has in a decade. This had it all: false finishes, partner interference, and extraordinary crowd enthusiasm.

3. Curt Hennig vs. Tito Santana, WWF Superstars (I-C Tourney Finals): I think Curt Hennig was the best overall performer of 1990 and while this match was just short of nine minutes, it was among the best the WWF has to offer. Hennig was magnificent and Santana came away with renewed respect.

4. Midnight Express vs. Southern Boys, World Wide: This paralleled the arrival of the Fantastics in 1988, scoring an early upset win over the Midnights. Bobby Eaton was a tour de force and Tracy Smothers and Steve Armstrong demonstrated how much they have learned in Japan. This could have been a longer term feud but the Midnights never recaptured their heel hate and the Rebel gimmick damages Tracy and Steve out of the South.

5. Arn Anderson vs. Great Muta, Power Hour (NWA TV Title): This is one of those that happened so long ago, it was almost out of mind for many fans. Arn was a short-term babyface at the time and offered some strong power moves to counteract Muta's aerials and win the TV belt. This match had 13 two counts and was one of the best ever presented on "Power Hour".

6. Flair vs. Scott Steiner, WCW: A number of Matwatch readers have rated this match even higher. It was a powerful confrontation and should have been the match that made Scott a major star with his upset over Flair, albeit with help from Rick. But the next week, it was as if WCW forgot all about it and it's only been mentioned once since.

7. Flair vs. Lex Luger, Clash XII: This was a good but far from their best match and the untimely interference of Stan Hansen and the fact that Flair was never seen after Hansen attacked Luger diluted it. But this one will go down as one of the two most watched matches in cable TV history (along with Sting-Black Scorpion) until topped.

8. Steiners vs. Midnight Express, WCW (Oct.): The Steiners' victory was supposed to kick off another long term series of TV matches and angles between the two teams but the followup never materialized. The complimentary styles were at their best in this match and Stan Lane, with a strong martial arts display, took a spotlight at mid-match.

9. Terry Funk vs. Jerry Lawler, USWA (tournament semi-finals): Except for his weak six minutes with Dick Murdoch, Funk did not have a bad match the entire tourney. But this was a classic Memphis brawl with garbage cans, wooden steps, mic cables and a run-in by Eddie Gilbert which set up Lawler as a wounded underdog for his final match with Austin Idol.

10. Flair/Anderson vs. Rock & Roll Express, NWA Main Event (Feb): This will go down as the most watched match of a weekly cable wrestling series ever and proved Morton and Gibson still had a spark left, particularly against two top-flight veterans. The confrontation was seen in 2.55 million homes on Flair's last week as WCW booker.

Of course, if the trend continues in 1991 of television main events, even for the stars with endurance, going less than 15 minutes, we may confront an era where we have to redefine what constitutes good. But oh, can those of us who savor the memory of a Brisco-Funk, Kiniski-Thesz, or Flair-Steamboat series, not pine for one more 60-minute draw between two performers who can carry bricks on their shoulders that long? Stay tuned.

11

"WHY THE SMARTS HATE THE WWF"

By Dan Reilly

I've got a great idea for a fun weekend for all of us next summer. Lets start saving our money now and plan three fun filled days making the circuit with the WWF culminating with a super night of action at Summer-Slam!! We could catch 3-4 shows...maybe even a TV taping or two...hob-nob around the bars talking "sheet-talk"...we could certainly get good seats if we formulate our strategy now...any takers?

If we get a dozen "smart" fans to show up for this...we'd be lucky. You see..."smart---semi-smart...wise ass" wrestling fans like us....people who pay weekly homage to the Observer....those who cry at night if Matwatch doesn't arrive by Friday....those of us who love the Torch but wouldn't openly admit we like the free photo with each issue....we "smarts" aren't supposed to like the WWF.

If word got out that we actually liked the work-rate in a Whiff house show....if word got out that we thought Vince did a great job with a particular angle....if our newsletter guru's heard we thought the Titan recent booking wasn't "half-bad" we certainly would come under ridicule from all our friends who are serious about the biz. We'd probably be ostracized from any further contact with fellow sheet readers---we'd be blackballed...our subscriptions would probably be tampered with...checks would be cashed but no issues would ever arrive----where would we ever be able to get our Portland tapes or our Memphis WMC tapes. We'd be labeled social-misfits....you actually enjoy the WWF?

But why this hatred for Titan? It must be because "smarts" disdain McMaho's success. We are resentful that he uses the FOX channels afternoon kids TV hosts to boost sales of tickets for the local shows. We resent that he's attempted to bring in a San Diego chicken type character/mascot for the kids. We don't like it at all that we don't know which lounges WWF's grapplers hang out in (for the most part)...we don't really quite know which hotels WWF's wrestlers stay at...they seem to throw swerves at the sheets all the time. Information is tough to get about the WWF...I still don't really know why Rick Rude quite....But if it was our beloved NWA...we'd know what Rude had for breakfast that day..why he missed a particular date etc...in short..Vince constantly thumbs his nose at the sheets....he does his marketing very well.....knows where his booking is headed months in advance...is a well oiled machine. And we don't like it one bit....we all want to know the inside scoops... Vince keeps us in the dark for the most part...really only tells us what he wants us to know.

But the NWA---we love 'em...even if more often than not they disappoint us. We corner Herd in the hotel lobby...Cornette does five part interviews...Beverly does the 900 phone number thing for WCW...Eaton lets us buy him a beer in the bar...we ride the elevator with Ole....we like this....

By no means am I a WWF lover---I am, however a realist. This is a big time business we are running here..not popularity contests among 4000 or so sheet readers...Its the Apterites...the 8-14 year olds...its a genius at American Marketing 101...finding your niche in the marketplace and going after it full throttle.

We shouldn't hate the WWF---we can moan and groan about what they do...we can boycott their shows for the rest of our lives... we can turn away in disgust at their PPV prices...we can mutter when they lure a superstar away from another federation that he has "sold his soul for a paycheck". But if nothing else... we should respect the WWF for what its done. Its added a bit of Disney to a form of entertainment formerly labeled as low-brow. So..next summer..if some entrepreneur..organizes a WWF weekend.... lets all skip the Bash and turn ourselves into WWF "groupies" instead.

KLON'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Seasons Greetings to the Arena Report family from the House of KLON !!!
WCW give me my Christmas present early this year, in the form of the Starcade
World Tag Street Fight. Despite a weak finish, this ***** star match was the
best brawl ever seen on a P-P-V event and really starts the new year off great !
What follows is my 1991 wish list:

- Ric Flair - becomes the only nine time world champion and becomes acknowledged
as the Living Legend of wrestling
- Hulk Hogan - his WWF contract is declared invalid, he becomes a P-P-V free
agent for all groups, and becomes the star of a tv detective show
- Scott and Rick Steiner - they turn down a huge contract to jump to Joe Pedicino's
group. Scott becomes the world champion and Rick a nation-wide cult hero
- Ultimate Wannion - the WWF hires Ole Anderson to attempt to teach this geek
how to do interviews. Ole gives up and returns to other stuffs (his lumberyard)
- Sting - is down-graded to mid-level babyface kid's hero and never re-gains the
world strap. He evaluates his life and learns humility
- Roddy Piper - turns heel and feuds with the Big Bossman, he also gets a major
film role as the lead villian in the years big action adventure
- Lex Luger - finally gives up on WCW and works only in Japan
- Curt Hennig and Ted DiBiase - form the Alliance of Evil and feud with the
Rockers in the first WWF five star matches
- Ron Simmons - Leaves Doom (which becomes Butch Reed & Lanny Cameron), he
becomes an extremely popular US champion, and the biggest black star in
wrestling history, the BET network plays him up constantly
- Randy Savage - as a tweener (he gets further in the middle when
Shenni Leaves to have twins) he has great matches with Big
Bossman and Bret Hart
- Sid Vicious - after a softball bat conks him on the head, he decides to
become the greatest big man in the sports history. He becomes pals with
Dan Spivey, Stan Hansen, and Terry Gordy and constantly studies Bruiser
Brody tapes. His new pals teach Sid the way it should be done and Big Sid
wins the Observer most improved catagory
- The Horseman - Ann Anderson, Barry Windham, Terry Taylor and Tony Anthony
are the new Horseman after Flair and Sid move on to bigger things
- Arena Report - makes great strides in 1991, Ron Lemieux decides to move
up and challenge Matwatch and Torch for the 2 on 3 slot in sheetdom.
His weekly issues are filled with info found nowhere else

That's it folk's, Happy Holidays !!! I hope all your wishes come true

THE 1990 GAG FAN AWARDS

by Jeff Zinger with J.Z.Travis

There are many, many fans out there that deserve some sort of award for various contributions to wrestling fandom. We here at GAG Central have decided to honor some of these people-at least the ones we could think of something funny (hopefully) for. Here we go!

BEST STAND UP COMEDY AWARD-Harry White/ "I COULD HAVE REPLACED ROBERT GIBSON AWARD-Ron Lemieux (RL- I don't get it.) HOTTEST UNDERAGE RING RAT AWARD-Margaret Brown/ "ILOVE TRACI LORDS AWARD-Sean Nicholas/ MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES AWARD-Jeff Mullins/ TOMMY RICH "WHERE'S THE BEER AWARD-Wade Keller/ MOST SHOCKED LOOK AFTER A SUPPOSED NWA WORLD TITLE CHANGE IN CHICAGO AWARD-John Henrickson/ "IHATE CONTROVERSY AWARD"-Lance Levine/ LEAST PROLIFIC WRITER AWARD-Rodney Leighton/ "WHERE ARE THEY NOW" AWARD-Greg Scatton/ GORBACHEV AWARD-John Hitchcock/ J.Z.TRAVIS ALL AROUND COOL GUY AWARD-Brian Tramel/ "WHAT THE HELL DOES KLON MEAN ANYHOW AWARD-Klon/ JOHN DENVER ON STEROIDS AWARD-Steve Sims/ "I SELL F_____ING WRESTLING TAPES FOR A LIVING AWARD"-John McAdam/ "I HATE READING" AWARD- Dan Reilly/ MOST LIKELY TO MARRY DUMP AWARD-Jeff Bowdren/ "I HATE PRE-1983 WRESTLING" AWARD-Evan Ginzburg/ NEEDS A BETTER PAYING JOB AWARD-Dave Meltzer/ OLE ANDERSON FAN CLUB AWARD-Scott Hudson/ "I'VE ONLY HAD TWENTY BEERS" AWARD-Dave Flaherty.

Additions anyone. (RL- If you do, send them in and I'll put them in future issues.)

MIKE LANO'S TOP 10 SURPRISES IN HULK HOGAN'S MOVIE, "URBAN COMMANDO"

10. Vince McMahon's nude scene.
9. Wrestling sequences choreographed by Jim Wilson & Eddy Mansfield.
8. Hogan killed off by Laura Palmer's father.
7. Mr. T? Gay as a french horn!
6. Loveable character R2D2 dies.
5. Plot not stolen from "Total Recall", with also over muscular, over-tan and more over at the movies-Schwartznegger.
4. Hogan calls his intergalactic boss, Orson, who turns out to be Robin Williams doing a very bad Lord Al Hayes impression on speed.
3. Hogan's vitamins, Python Powder, and more important syringes are stolen by Nick Kozak and Rick Steiner.
2. A trailer is shown for Hogan's next movie with Ed Leslie- "Seperated At Birth".
1. You'll pay \$3.00 to rent it.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Tuesday, December 11, 1990

USF Sundome
Tampa, FL

This was a taping for "Superstars of Wrestling" airing I believe the first three weeks of January. I will use a different format since there were 33 matches. I'll only comment on the competitive ones. Here goes:

- 1) J.W. Strong over Rex King with a powerslam in 3:47. Strong is the recently fired Storm from the NWA. If this was Warner's tryout, I'd give King a job. Rex looked real good. Even did the Flair bump over the buckle, got to the top rope and jumped into Warner's powerslam. Good finish. **½
- 2) The Mongol over Ray Hammer. Another tryout. No idea who he was but Klon thought he looked like Tony Rumble from the ICW. Don't think so. Real bad.
- 3) Orient Express beat Pat Armstrong & Kevin Curry.
- 4) Earthquake pinned Randy Hunter.
- 5) Rick Martel boston crabbed Jim Evans.
- 6) Big Boss Man slammed Pete Sanchez, the jobber who spit at me at the Ft. Pierce NWA tapings. Remember Jeff and Dave?
- 7) Mr. Perfect plexed Rico Frederico. It was announced he was the new champion so he had the belt even though bout hadn't aired yet. They couldn't keep him off TV for three weeks.
- 8) Tugboat tooted Bob Bradley.
- 9) Nasty Boys debuted managed by Jimmy Hart beating Evans & Sonny Blaze. Same outfits, look, names and finisher as NWA. They are using their video music they made when they were in the PWF. Sounds good. They worked real stiff.
- 10) Jake Roberts DDT'd Pat Harrison.
- 11) Undertaker pinned Terry Davis. After Callous's tombstone, he folds the guy's hands on his chest and drops rose petals on him.
- 12) Rockers beat Chuck Austin & Lanny Poffo. Austin suffered a broken neck in this match. He blocked a Jannetty try for a hip toss and Marty bent him down and put his leg behind his neck but instead of flipping over, he drove the guy's head into the mat. He went over to Shaun and whispered something. Michaels did a diving headbutt lightly to the chest for the win. Afterwards, the guy was motionless. All the bigwigs came to ringside and it took thirty minutes to get the ambulance and stretcher. They had this guy so immobilized. I'm pretty sure Vince makes these jobbers sign releases so I hope this guy has insurance.
- 13) Warlord full nelsonned Cliff Sheets.
- 14) Kerry Von Erich discus punched Tom Stone. *****Gene Okerlund interviewed

Sgt. Slaughter and Gen. Adnon. Slaughtershowed a gift he received from Saddam Hussein. It was a new pair of wrestling boots. He said he would use them to dethrone the Warrior at the Rumble***** 15) Warlord came back too soon to beat Donnie Steel. 16) Slaughter camel clutched Armstrong. 17) Hacksaw Duggan tackled J.T. Smith. 18) Orient's over Bill & James Mulkey. MULKEYMANIA running wild again. 19) Roberts DDT'd Bob Bradley. 20) Boss Man ball & chained Kent Carlson. 21) Davey Boy Smith powerslammed Tom Bennett. *****0kerlund interview with Warrior talking about Slaughter at the Rumble.***** 22) Undertaker buried Randy Hunter. 23) Ultimate Warrior beat Randy Savage on a count out at 10:23. Great heat after all the crap the crowd sat through. Sherri worked her tail off. She showed her tail alot too. Savage took a powder after a flying shoulderblock and they brawled for a bit out in the runway. Good bout. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 24) Rick Martel beat Jake Roberts via DQ in 6:57. Same match as Orlando. * Hate seeing same bout twice. *****Brother Love interviewed Hogan and harped on Tugboat being his friend again and what if they meet at the Rumble. Hogan vs. Tugger. Say it won't be so.***** 25) Ted DiBiase pinned Danny Brazile. After the squash, Ted dropped some money on themat, slapped Virgil in the face and told him to pick it up. Virgil got pissed and wouldn't do it until Ted whispered in his ear. "Remember....." Maybe he has pictures of Dusty he got from Larry Z. Virgil will turn at the Rumble. 26) Power & Glory over Blaze & Scotty Williams. 27) Hart Foundation beat Black Bart & Jones. 28) Hennig pinned Kevin Rijo. 29) Bushwhackers whacked Gladiator & Hunter, 30) Nasties demolished Sanchez & Armstrong. 31) BBM beat Heenan. Same bout as Orlando. 15 seconds and Barbie does a run in. Barbarian didn't wrestle on the card so he may be hampered with an injury. 32) Slaughter pinned Duggan when Adnon hit Hack with the 2x4 in 2:56. Thank Heaven for short matches. -** 33) Hogan pinned Earthquake with the legdrop in 12:43. * $\frac{1}{2}$ Same as O-Town but the pin finish instead of DQ.

Notes

It was a sellout at 11,500 but there had to be some freebies....?. Just about everyone was there with the exception of the Road Warriors (Animal's mother died), Demolition, (Crush either injured or will be signing with the Global group) and Santana (Not sure the deal there.)....Dusty & Dustin did a Bro Love early in the show. (Forgot to mention it.) They were in street clothes^oso they obviously wanted them to hype the Rumble and split....George Steinbrenner was sitting front row. When Perfect & Heenan came out, Bobby shook hands with him and introduced Hennig to King George. The cameras taped the whole thing.....Sign of the night, "The Warrior Shall Suffer The Kingdom Of The Madness" Not sure if it makes sense but Ultimate probably understood it.....Klon was trying to get this twelve year old kid next to him to like DiBiase as he was telling him he was buying a Ted wrestling buddy for Melissa his daughter.....This was my fifth Titan taping and it was the worst. No semi squashes. Too many no name jobbers. If any of these bouts were taped for Prime Time, I won't be watching for a few weeks.

RAMBLINGS

As I type this, STARRCADE is tonight. Lots of speculation on what will happen in the main event as first reports said Sting had refused to drop the strap Xmas night in Atlanta to Flair so the angle with Flair as Scorpion would be meaningless. Then I heard Sting said he'd drop it but no one knows where or when. I guess we'll find out tonight....NWA taped WCW at Center Stage on 12/11 for air dates on 1/5 and 1/12. They did an angle with Arn and Barry and the Youngbloods. They'll meet at the Clash on 1/30.....Terry Taylor came out during a Bobby Eaton and Tom Zenk interview and Taylor challenged Bobby with the winner getting a shot at Zenk on the Clash. They went to a ten minute draw.....They will be having a WCW sexiest wrestler contest which either Zenk or Pillman will win and Taylor will turn heel attacking whoever wins it. Sounds good to me. Loved his tirade after Alexandra York slapped him.....Missy and Paul E. got into a couple of arguments due to Missy interviewing a few people. They will have an arm wrestling match at the Clash. Why????.....Sid Vicious squashed Norman and in the process Norman kept holding his head and was not allowed to take his pills which he needs for his condition. This will allow them to change his identity for 100th time tying Jack Victory's record.....Now I dislike Dusty Rhodes but I have a hard time swallowing the fact that he's done jobs for Virgil in 45 seconds clean in the middle. I think that exposes the business more than anything....How can a guy like Sam Houston refuse to do a job for Terry Taylor. I lost a little respect for him when I heard that one.....Zeus was recently on the sidelines for a Falcons-Eagles game and was talking trash to Eagles defensive back Ben Smith. Zeus said, "For some reason, he started looking at me like Hulk Hogan." Give me a break Tiny.....Tampa Sportatorium will be shut down for a while due to renovations. Maybe they'll renovate the PWF too..... Latest word has Flair winning title in the Meadowlands.,
 Thanks to my wife Cheryl, who did the art work for front & back covers. Maybe I'll make her ms Potshot someday. 15

Lanigan's Top Ten Arena Foods

After going through over 100 reports since 1985, I decided to narrow my food choices to regular arenas and not include high schools and county fairs. The food items are in no particular order but if I may be so prejudiced, my top pick would be the last one mentioned.

- 1) Soft ice cream cones - Louisville Gardens, Louisville, KY. The chocolate cone cost 85¢ back in 1987 and it reminded me of stopping at one of those roadside stands out in the countryside.
- 2) Hot dog - Cambria County War Memorial Arena - Johnstown, PA - I have tasted better dogs at high schools but arena-wise, it's the best I've come across. The dogs are well-cooked on a grill, the buns are now heated, with plenty of fresh condiments, such as finely diced onions at your disposal.
- 3) Nachos - Alabama State Fairgrounds Arena - Birmingham, AL - First of three nachos to make the list, my favorite arena food. From my notes back in 1987, the nachos were rated highly because of the quantity for the low price and that the chips and cheese sauce were satisfactory.
- 4) Corny dog - Sportatorium - Dallas, TX - On my August 1988 visit to this shrine, I remember that the corny dog was as piping hot as the non air-conditioned Sportatorium. Folks looked at me peculiarly as I asked for ketchup.
- 5) Nachos - Philadelphia Civic Center - Philadelphia, PA - Ron Lemieux thought that the cheese sauce was too spicy. Compared to the over-powering Pittsburgh Civic Arena's and most other arena bland offerings, this hotbed for the NWA was just right.
- 6) Nachos - Sky Dome - Toronto, Ontario - I know, it's a baseball park but I did see Wrestlemania there. The concessionaire is McDonald's and it might have been the very best I have ever tasted. The chips were hot and crisp and the cheese sauce was hot and zesty. The only drawback is McDonald's cruel practice of packing all there condiments such as the cheese in those damn packets that must be ripped open.
- 7) Popcorn - Showplace Exhibition Center - Richmond, VA - The popcorn was freshly popped right in front of you. Butter was generously applied to make it the very best arena popcorn. I wish I lived near an arena that had excellent popcorn as in Richmond. I wouldn't have to worry about gaining weight.
- 8) Hot Sausage - Wheeling Civic Center - Wheeling, WV - The only thing worth eating here at this WWF stopover. It was the size of a hot dog, tangy, and loaded with cooked peppers and onions. The \$1.50 price was the same as the hot dogs.
- 9) Polish sausage - UIC Pavilion - Chicago, IL - It was the best new food item I had this year. The sausage was fully packed with a hearty flavor. This delight was longer but thinner than a regular hot dog. The bun was very warm and peppered with poppy seeds for a nice touch. I'm jealous of Steve Sims.
- 10) Pizza - Pittsburgh Civic Arena - My all-time favorite arena food item. What made this my favorite was that the pizza is prepared daily at a suburban pizza shop and brought to the Arena to be cooked. The pizza is then cooked on a conveyer type grill, similiar to those ovens at Pizza Hut. The pizza squares are roughly 5 inches by 5 inches laden with plenty of cheese and usually five pepperoni slices. The quality has dipped this year as the pizza is cooked prior to the event and placed under the hot lights along with the hot dogs.

A final note. Several folks have asked me what I weigh. I must admit that eating this stuff puts on the pounds. In February I weighed 213 pounds. I got on the Nutri-System Diet and rang the bell at 176 pounds on my last visit there for a total weight loss of 37 pounds.

John H. Lanigan Food Report

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

By
Marianne Ryan

Its hard to believe that its already time to do a year-end column. It doesn't seem like 12 months have gone by. Then again, during the past year I have gone to 54 matches in 29 cities, 9 different states and in 2 countries -- covering 22,068.5 miles. And, I have a few more to go before the year officially ends.

During 1990, I attended 10 TV tapings -- The Main Event with Buster Douglas and two PPV's: Wrestlemania and Summer Slam. In January, I broke several rules of the road -- at Bret's request -- and received a stern warning from an Indiana cop as a result. In February, a security moron at Joe Louis Arena told Queen Sherri to park in the public lot the night of The Main Event. In March, I attended three matches in 24 hours in three states. April took me to Toronto for Wrestlemania, where I got to finally meet the legendary Stu Hart. I got to know Randy Savage and Elizabeth in May. In June, a VFW guy paraded around a hotel lobby saying Ted DiBiase hates veterans after refusing to give this guy an autograph. During July, Tito tried to fix me up with Nikolai. I still haven't forgiven Tito for that. August meant driving cross country with Sapphire after Summer Slam. In September, I almost got thrown into a hotel pool fully dressed by Koko. I got to celebrate Halloween with some of my favorite guys from both the WWF and NWA when both were in Chicago the same night. October was also the month in which I was GHB'd* for the first time. And, then in November, I spent a wild and crazy couple of days roaming Wisconsin with The Macho King and Sensational Queen. And, these are just a few of the wild times I've had. Most would not be suitable for publication.

I'll be the first to admit, I'm very fortunate to be able to "hang with the guys" on a regular basis. It's a great deal of fun, but it can also be quite trying at times. Try sitting around an arena for 10 hours during tapings; or rushing to get to the arena on time while you're driving through a blizzard; or dealing with pesky agents; or one of the few wrestlers who are complete jerks; or the ones who are only interested in two things, one of which is a free ride -- the other I won't mention.

There are moments that make up for all that. Like having Terry Taylor yell at me because I was in Philadelphia for Summer Slam instead of in Chicago for his first appearance there with the NWA; or having Sherri buy each of us matching stuffed monkeys so we always have something to remember each other by; or Sapphire being there when I was having major love life problems and really needed a friend.

But, perhaps my favorite memory comes courtesy of Bret. He was going to share an off-color story with Jim, Davey, myself and Julie (a friend who does many of the costumes you see), but decided he better not tell the story since Julie was there. It's nice to know that Bret thinks of me as, well, one of the guys.

On that note, I'd like to say thanks to some of the people who make it fun: Jim, Davey, Sherri, Sapphire, Randy, Terry, Koko, Barbarian, Mr. Fuji, Honky Tonk, Mike McGuirk, Dave Hebner and Jack Lanza, Joey Marella and, most of all, Bret.

Last, but not least, many thanks to Ron for putting up with me, especially when instead of faxing him my column, I'm in Milwaukee with my one and only.

Merry Christmas everyone, and here's hoping 1991 is a great year for all of you and for wrestling.

* In case anyone is interested, GHB is a metabolism booster that does strange things to a person. It's available in select health food stores.

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Utica Memorial Auditorium (WWF)
Correspondent: Don Laible

Utica, NY

November 21, 1990

1) Legion of Doom defeated Demolition. 2) Earthquake pinned Tugboat. 3) Orient Express over The Bushwhackers. 4) Kerry Von Erich over Curt Hennig. 5) Jake Roberts defeated Rick Martel. 6) Roddy Piper won a bunkhouse brawl. ATT: 2,000

Cojo Roller Skating Rink (Peach State)
Correspondent: Ferk

Cordele, GA

November 21, 1990

1) Scott Armstrong, Wild Bill Smith, & Paul Miller beat Zebra Warriors & Little Dale Lucas. Lucas is the promoters neighbor trained briefly by Bambi. 2) Steve Lawler and Fabian went to a double count out. 3) Ms. Cordele (Peggy Lee Leather) beat Bambi but Bambi kept the title on a technicality. Leather was managed by Ronnie P. Gossett. 4) Beautiful Mike, managed by Gossett pinned Scott Armstrong. 5) Sheik Hussein won by DQ over Ivan Koloff. 6) Big Red beat Dirty White Boy Jimmy Powell. 7) The Blazers (R.D. Swain & Sugar Ray) won the tag belts from The Fantastics (Bobby & Jackie Fulton). Swain juiced big time. 8) Sheik Hussein lost a Tar and Feather Turkey Tournament Battle Royal. ATT: 350

Joe Louis Arena (WWF)

Detroit, MI

November 24, 1990

Correspondent: George Wilkinson

1) Warlord pinned Jimmy Snuka. 2) Power & Glory downed Bushwhackers with the help of Herc's chain. 3) Big Boss Man used his club to beat Bobby Heenan. 4) Koko Ware over Black Bart. 5) Rick Martel beat Jake Roberts via DQ. 6) Saba Simba beat Bob Bradley. 7) Legion of Doom beat Orient Express & Mr. Fuji. 8) Ultimate Warrior beat Randy Savage via count out as Randy simply left for the dressing room.

Madison Square Garden (WWF)

New York, NY

November 24, 1990

Correspondent: Elyse Zois

1) Davey Boy Smith powerslammed Buddy Rose. 2) Tugboat splashed Boris Zhukov 3) Earthquake beat Hulk Hogan via count out when they were brawling outside and Quake got in before the ten count. 4) Shane Douglas over Haku. 5) Texas Von Erich beat Mr. Almost Perfect Hennig. 6) Dusty & Dustin Rhodes beat Ted DiBiase & Virgil when Dustin pinned Virgil. 7) Sgt. Slaughter over Hacksaw Duggan. 8) Bret Hart pinned Barbarian. 9) Rockers over Demolition by DQ as Crush pulled the ref out of the ring while he was counting out Smash who was being pinned by Michaels.

Greensboro Coliseum (NWA)

Greensboro, NC

November 25, 1990

Correspondent: K.C. O'Connor

1) Tim Horner used a roll up and bridge to defeat Barry Horowitz. *3/4
2) Master Blasters beat Allen Iron Eagle & Tom Zenk as Eagle did the job to a double shoulder block while Zenk was busy checking out the females in the audience. *1/2
3) Terry Taylor beat Motor City Madman with the five arm. Madman broke the ropes which led the G-Boro gang to get on him with, "Dusty wrestled here for 10 years and he never broke the ring." *
4) Junkyard Dog headbutted Iron Sheik. Dud
5) Tommy Rich & Ricky Morton beat Freebirds when Morton rolled up Hayes from behind. Legendary G-Boro fan John Hitchcock made a sign that had an outline of a Dusty Rhodes with a caption that read, "Oh no! Say it isn't so!" All the boys in this match were cracking up and Hayes wrestled like Dusty the whole match. * for bout but *****for entertainment. 6) Lex Luger clotheslined Big Cat. *1/2
7) Ron Simmons pinned Ric Flair in a cage in only 5:45. Simmons used an object he got from Teddy Long in this cage bout. Arn and Reed were both out with the flu. ** ATT: 700

Odenton Fire House (MAWA)

Odenton, MD

December 1, 1990

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) The Surgeon and Sledgehammer McGill went to a DDQ. F 2) Bubba Monroe pinned Bronco Billy. D 3) Agent Orange over Colt Starr. F 4) Morgas the Maniac beat Live Wire. D 5) The Spider over Johnny Favorite. Two ropes broke in this bout. C 6) Iraqi Mercenary pinned Ricky Blues with the help of Agent Orange. D 7) Lords of Darkness beat Rude Crew. D

East Park Recreation Center (Five-Star)
Correspondent: Ken Verret

Houma, LA

December 2, 1990

1) Rainbow Brown and Stanley Little Bear went to a fifteen minute draw. 2) Rude Dog over Dale Lapeyrouse. Dale created alot of heat. 3) Bobby Doll upset Jim

Ryder. 4) Sledgehammer beat Taras Bulbawia DQ when Bulba used a foreign object. 5) Lord Humongous over Dr. Destruction via DQ due to interference. 6) Brad & Bart Batten went to a double DQ with Bulba & The Executioner. The Battens both juiced. ATT: 180

Tampa Sportatorium (PWF)

Tampa, FL

December 13. 1990

Correspondent: Shannon Rose

1) Mark Starr pinned Mike DeBacco after a DDT. 2) Frankie Lancaster superplexed Johnny B. Goode. 3) Johnny Pavros sunset flipped Tim Parker. 4) Hurricane Walker beat Ron Slinker via DQ and as Slinker's goons ganged up on Walker, Rocky Johnson made the save. 5) Steve Keirn defeated Tex Sailer. ATT: 115

LETTERS TO "AR"

Marianne Ryan

It's time for somebody to formally tell you how inappropriate Marianne Ryan's column is in Arena Report. You know I'm a friend Ron and I don't want either your readers or mine to think of this as an "opening shot" in a feud between you and I. On the contrary, these comments are being made out of respect for you and the steady improvement your sheet has shown.

At first I thought of this girl's work as the stuff of a frustrated Tiger Beat reader. You know, "And then I came within ten feet of Marty Jannetty! Like, oh my God! Somebody please hose me down." But the more I read, as the months went by, I realized this girl is either a ring rat or not very bright. She's constantly talking about private dealings (usually car rides) with Titan wrestlers; maybe I'm being presumptuous in assuming she's a rat, but I'm not the only one making that assumption. Many of our mutual readers feel the same way. And I say she's not too bright because she's obviously blowing her contacts, if you'll pardon the expression (and even if you won't) by naming so many names so matter-of-factly. "Bret and Jim were so bombed, I had to do the driving that night." How long are Bret and Jimmy going to remain your friends when you write so much about their doings behind the scenes?

But what finally compelled me to write this letter is her latest column (Nov. 26th) which was the last straw. Ms. Ryan decided to take some shots at Missy Hyatt, and that's when I got mad! If someone of journalistic merit criticized Missy for an on-air miscue, that's absolutely fair game. But what did Ms. Ryan opt to do? "She had a major run in her pantyhose" and "Is anything on her real?" Sounds like some jealousy rearing its ugly head to me. And I'm not being sexist because I would sound just as petty if I were to say something like, "Can you believe all those split ends on Tom Zenk at the Clash? Jeez! in Chokehold. As we all know, Missy is beautiful, so I can understand Ryan's envy, but to be so blatant about it? I suppose you've never had any runs in pantyhose, right MS. Ryan? And of course you don't wear any makeup or enhance your looks unnaturally either, right? Here's my own note from the parking lot. I've met Missy a few times and she's a nice young lady; she's got a good sense of humor about the comedy in the sheets. So your potshot was uncalled for.

In conclusion Ron, I think you've built up a solid reputation in the short time you've been doing "AR", and I really enjoy your work. But Ryan's stuff sticks out like a polyester suit at a fashion show. I think her columns belong in a rag, not in "AR". And if your jealous of Missy dear, you know Eddie Gilbert is a free man these days. But he is down in Memphis and I don't know if Bret and Jimmy would give you a lift down there.

Lance Levine

Chokehold Editor

I usually find the Arena Report column "Notes From The Parking Lot" authored by Marianne Ryan to be enlightening if nothing else. Ms. Ryan relates both her actual experiences with the wrestlers and her opinions involving them. I did however find her most recent column and her comments about Missy Hyatt in particular, troubling. I found those comments to be both snide and below-the-belt. I am of the opinion that 99% of Missy's fans don't give a damn whether the Missy we see is "natural" or not! The diatribe Ms. Ryan used on Missy Hyatt was both unnecessary and beneath both Arena Report and Ms. Ryan herself.

Klon

Melbourne, FL

I really enjoy Marianne's "Notes From The Parking Lot". Titan should just put her on their payroll!

However, I felt bad for her when she described her "pitiful existence". So send me directions to the parking lot. I am volunteering to give up my summer vacation to venture to the midwest for a week or so (hell, even for a month if that's what it'll take!) to relieve her of this tedious duty she has undertaken. I can barely imagine how God-awful it must be to travel 500

miles only to end up where you started and - on top of that - have to look at Bret Hart in the passenger seat. What a cross to bear. But, I'll be a real trooper and give it my best shot.

I think I am well qualified for this summer job. I have a car that gets great mileage and handles real good in the heat. (Did I mention it's a two seater? Sorry Jim.) I can read a road map (sort of). I have access to a luggage rack. I have not one, but three gas credit cards. And I don't like that Missy Hyatt.

Speaking of the WWF, did you know it was topsy turvey and in a state of confusion? Hulkster said so Thanksgiving weekend. Now tell us something we DON'T know. What they need is someone new in the drivers seat too, but it'll be a long, hot summer just helping Marianne out. Unless having three gas credit cards means I can be in two places at once? No, I know I won't have enough time. I'll have my hands full just cartin' that damn wrestler around, and I'd best give this chore my undivided attention. I know I'm gonna hate every minute of this, but if it'll help Marianne out.

Marilyn Rundle
Gardiner; NY

RL- I go almost three years without any controversy and in the span of a month I get two. Look, not one reader will like everything that appears in "AR". I can't think of one newsletter I receive that I enjoy every column or writer. And Marianne is one of my most popular writers. Unless that changes (and I doubt it will) she'll be a staple of "AR" for a long time to come. She is not skedded for next issue but she's invited to send a reply which I'll include in that issues letters section.

Turkey Week

Has the stench of that last Clash left Florida yet? My TV has yet to come down from that week of wrestling: Tuesday's Clash, Thursday's Survivor Series, Friday's Main Event, MTV's replay of the 1985 Rock & Wrestling special, and the MSG replay on Sunday night. Yow! My VCR heads need a cleaning and mine isn't so fine.

Jeff Cohen
Great Neck, NY

Saw Survivor Series and thought it stank to high Heaven. Lousy workrate and horrible booking. Just read about Vince giving the tag belts back to the Hart Foundation. Can't for the life of me understand why he would even want a lousy performer clown type like Jim Neidhart. I suppose if he runs matches with Harts/Rockers, he has to have at least one non-wrestler, huh? By the way, I liked Ferk's nickname. Don't know how she knew but she is invited to come find out for sure.

Rodney Leighton
Pugwash, Nova Scotia

RL- Agree on The Anvil but what's this about Ferk? Am I missing something here?

My Bio

I've got a question for you. Just out of curiosity, whatever happened to that biography of yourself as a wrestling fan, which we were promised some 10 months ago? Any chance of seeing it in the year end issue?

Andy King
Middletown, NY

RL- Not a bad idea but I put it off indefinetly (sp) because I don't know if there is really that much interest in hearing about my career as a fan although there would be lots of interesting stuff to tell. I just was afraid it would come off as an ego gratifying piece and it would turn people off. If I'm asked by more people, I'd consider it.

STARRCADE SNIPPETS

I have to say that this show wasn't the best PPV I've seen, nor was it the worst, but it sure was entertaining. I have to admit I was enjoying the tag tourney, only because we got to see a variety of guys we've heard about but never seen as well as seeing Muta, Saito, and Adams again.....The Sting vs. Black Scorpion match was okay but could have been better with Ric Flair under the hood. But Ric tried to change his style so no one would figure out who it was. I'm sure the hardcores knew as soon as the spaceship opened up. Can you imagine if Flair had thrown his chops. Would have been a dead give away.....Bruiser was so out of place, it wasn't even funny.....I thought it was a great idea to bring back all the ex-scorpions to the ring as Flair's messengers and when they jumped Sting and Bruiser and got their masks ripped off, they revealed Moondog Rex, Bill Irwin, and the Angel of Death. Funny stuff. So where do they go from here. Yes, Flair and the Horsemen beat up Sting for awhile but Sting pinned Ric again, so why rematches across the country. Title has to change in Atlanta or it's a waste.....Line of the night goes to Jim Ross who mentioned that the only advice Mr. Hatori gave Mr. Saito when he was training him was to stay out of McDonalds.....The tag finals were good but the finish was lame. Would have liked to see Muta try for the moonsault.....And how about that street fight. That's the way wrestling should be. All four guys bloody. Awesome! Great brawling and spots everywhere. An easy **** $\frac{1}{2}$ match.....Why couldn't Stan Hansen drop the strap without controversy. Not only would he not get pinned, but it had to be a screwy ending. Good thing they gave it to Luger as when Stan started touching the four corners, the fans in St. Louis were booing like crazy.....Would have liked to see Japs beat Steiners just so they would go around the horn for U.S. title shots.... Wouldn't it have been funny if in the middle of the U.S. title match, Stan whispered to Lex, "I've changed my mind.".....Richard Marley was given his notice by WCW, that's why they did the angle where Birds beat him up. The double clothesline on Gibson was a good angle as well.....Glad Scrapers match was short. Nuff said.....I know they have to take advantage of this Michael Wallstreet publicity but I hated to see Taylor do the job but with Terry turning heel, he can just use it as another excuse on being too nice of a guy..... Did you catch Ref Lee Scott pull Victory's arm down so he could make the three count after Muta's suplex?.....I don't think the Russians knew their match was over with the Canucks. After the ref counted three, they got up and looked mighty confused.....Konan and Mysterio looked decent but both hurt themselves in the match with Adams & Smiley.....The three guys that were recently injured: Adams, Scott Steiner, and Simmons all looked very good.....Eaton's win over Z Man makes sense. Since Zenk wins the TV strap from Arn this weekend, they can say Bobby deserves a shot since he won at STARRCADE.....Was that Harry White & Steve Sims panned at the start of the card?..... And "Silo" Mike Gunter with the Horsemen fingers dangling during Paul E and Jim Ross's statements before the main event?.....Overall, very entertaining. Thumbs up.

FINAL WORD

I hope everyone has enjoyed this annual. Thanks to all the contributing writers as without you, there wouldn't have been an annual. And of course, thanks to you, the readers, who make this sideline passion a whole lot of fun. Any comments or feedback on anything in the annual can be sent to my new address which is: Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795. All match reports, subscriptions and the like may be sent there as well. We'll be back on a bi-weekly schedule starting 1/7 with a live report from an NWA show on 12/28 from Jacksonville. In closing, I'd like to wish all you and your families a very safe and happy holiday season. We'll catch you back here in 1991. Thanks again.

See ya,

Ron

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE ENTIRE "AR" STAFF



ARENA REPORT
P.O. BOX 952547
LAKE MARY, FL 32795



Jeff Zinger ()
541 Devonshire Ave
Woodstock, ONT N4S 5P9
Canada